WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Establishment of industries for agricultural labourers

2514. SHRI R. KAMARAJ: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a sizeable population of many districts of our country are entirely dependent upon agriculture and their sufferings increase during monsoon failures;

(b) if so, whether Government will come forward to start industries to provide employment opportunities to those unemployed agriculture labourers at the time of monsoon failure; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) to (c) A majority of India's population is dependent on agriculture. While Government does not directly start small industries, it does provide assistance, under its different schemes and programmes to entrepreneurs to do so, such as Integrated Infrastructure Development Scheme, National Programme on Rural Industrialization, etc.

Establishment of Rice Port

2515. SHRI S. M. LAL JAN BASHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have received representations for the establishment of a Rice Port to facilitate rice export;

(b) the details of the representations;

(c) whether it is a fact that there is a great potential for exporting rice to other countries; and

(d) the measures Government propose to exploit this potential?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Some of the measures taken to boost the export of rice include publicity campaign, sending delegations abroad, participating